

The Honorable Carl Levin  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

[with same letter to Stabenow & Upton]

Dear Senator Levin:

Thank you for your May 13, 2013 letter to Administrator McCarthy regarding the Allied Paper Landfill portion of the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site in Kalamazoo, Michigan. ~~I have been asked to respond to your letter. She has asked me to respond on her behalf.~~

All of the cleanup alternatives under consideration by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are protective of human health and the environment and would allow some amount of on-site redevelopment. Over the past several months, EPA, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and the City of Kalamazoo (City) have been working together to explore potential reuse scenarios~~develop potential configurations of the various cleanup alternatives that would maximize productive reuse of the property,~~ even for the alternatives where waste would be left in place. If waste were to be left in place, the City has indicated that they would prefer recreational reuse of the capped portions and light industrial/commercial reuse of the uncapped areas.

EPA is also currently working to identify any emerging technologies that might be applicable to the Allied Landfill waste and intends to soon discuss its findings with the City. Any emerging technologies would have to meet the same criteria as any of the cleanup alternatives already evaluated in the Feasibility Study.

The groundwater at Allied Landfill flows to Portage Creek and not toward the City well field. Moreover, monitoring data demonstrate that PCBs are not migrating off-site via groundwater. This monitoring includes well data from 2002 and 2003, a groundwater flow study conducted in 2009, and samples collected from the landfill's groundwater collection system since 2002~~from 2002 to the present.~~ Based on this information, ~~the~~ groundwater at Allied landfill does not pose a risk to the City well field. At the request of MDEQ, EPA will collect additional groundwater samples this summer and has received input from the City in developing those plans. If EPA selects a cleanup alternative that leaves any waste in place, a robust groundwater monitoring program would be put in place to evaluate the effectiveness of the cleanup over the long term.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Eileen Deamer or Ronna Beckmann, the Region 5 Congressional Liaisons, at (312) 886-3000.

Sincerely,

Susan Hedman  
Regional Administrator